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COVER 3: NEI launches national eye health education program

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'In the Napa outbreak, the caterer endeavored to serve nearly 300 people at two widely separated locations on the same day and clearly overtaxed the resources of his small kitchen that was licensed to serve only 29 restaurant customers.'

scope of caterers. All food operations are defined as food facilities with subcategories of food establishment, vehicle, vending machine, produce stand, temporary food facility, satellite food distribution facility, stationary mobile food preparation unit, and mobile food preparation unit (Section 27521). Caterers are not specifically defined. Moreover, because many caterers work illegally out of private homes, they often escape oversight by regulatory agencies.

After the outbreak investigation was completed, the Napa County Health Department made recommendations to the caterer to reduce the potential for another outbreak. Training in food handling and in temperature control was provided, and enhanced refrigeration capacity (for both the restaurant and for food transport) was ordered. In addition, the caterer has been encouraged to do more cooking on-site rather than transporting foods.

Other outbreaks caused by *B. cereus* have occurred in settings where large quantities of warm food were transported (9,10). In the Napa outbreak, the caterer endeavored to serve nearly 300 people at two widely separated locations on the

same day and clearly overtaxed the resources of his small kitchen that was licensed to serve only 29 restaurant customers. As the number of catering firms and the associated risk of foodborne illness continue to increase, stricter governmental oversight may be needed to ensure that the scope of catering or take-out operations is commensurate with the available facilities.

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NEI Launches National Eye Health Education Program

As part of its mission to address the public health problems of eye disease and vision loss through programs of biomedical research, disease prevention, and health promotion, the National Eye Institute (NEI), a component of the National Institutes of Health, has established the National Eye Health Education Program.

The initial focus of the program is on public and professional education efforts that encourage early detection and timely treatment of glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

It is estimated that almost 3 million Americans have glaucoma, half of them without knowing it. Of those who have been diagnosed with glaucoma, about 120,000 are blind.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in adults of all races older than age 60 and in blacks older than age 40. It generally strikes blacks at an earlier age and is often more severe than in other races.

Although glaucoma can often be controlled if it is diagnosed early, in many Americans the disease goes untreated, leading to visual impairment or blindness. Because there are no early warning signs, the disease often develops undetected until permanent vision loss has occurred.

NEI's initial glaucoma public education campaign consists of television, radio, and print public service announcements emphasizing that blacks older than 40 and everybody older than 60 should have eye examinations through dilated pupils every two years. In addition, education programs will be aimed at churches and civic organizations that serve the black community and older adults.

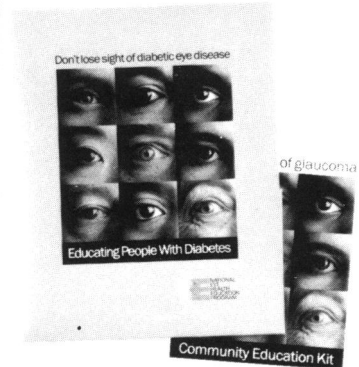
Diabetic eye disease is an inclusive term for ocular complications that the 14 million Americans with diabetes are at high risk of developing. These include cataract, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, which is a leading cause of blindness in American adults.

A series of controlled clinical trials have demonstrated that various methods of laser treatment are highly effective in preventing visual loss from diabetic retinopathy. Such treatment is now widely available throughout the United States. Yet, there is evidence that many people who could benefit from laser treatment do not receive it, highlighting the importance of public and professional education for this and other diabetic eye diseases.

Because diabetic eye disease can occur at any age, the NEI campaign is aimed at everyone with diabetes through

- public service advertisements in magazines and newspapers that stress the importance of an eye examination through dilated pupils at least once a year,
- health education materials provided to organizations whose members inform people with diabetes about the ocular complications of the disease;
- an information kit and continuing education program for pharmacists on diabetic eye disease including materials to help educate their customers with diabetes about diabetic eye disease.

Order these free kits and open millions of eyes.



Over 60 million Americans are at high risk of losing their eyesight to glaucoma or diabetic eye disease. For glaucoma, this includes blacks over age 40 and everyone over age 60, and for diabetic eye disease, all people with diabetes.

Fortunately, if these diseases are detected and treated in time, vision can often be saved.

You can use the materials in these free kits to educate people about glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.

So help open millions of eyes. Order your kits today. Call toll-free 1-800-869-2020 or write to: National Eye Health Education Program, Box 20/20, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Don't lose sight of eye disease.



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